



# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Chris Conlan (858) 694-3595

## **COUNTY TAKES TO THE AIR TO COMBAT MOSQUITOES** *County Wetlands Targeted for Aerial Larvicide Applications*

The County's Vector Control program has begun its monthly aerial larvicide applications to local wetlands to reduce mosquito breeding and the risk of West Nile virus (WNV) now that mosquito season is here. This year, the Vector Control program will target 27 key breeding areas.

"Last year's treatments at aerial sites were tremendously effective, reducing mosquito breeding by 90%," said Supervisor Greg Cox. "The County is working to eliminate mosquitoes at their source, using a helicopter to target inaccessible breeding areas."

The larvicide granules used to control the mosquito population contain a naturally occurring bacterium. Designed to dissolve in water, the larvicide kills developing mosquito larvae before they become biting adults. The larvicide is not toxic to humans and does not pose risks to wildlife or the environment.

In addition to the aerial applications, the County also reduces the risk of WNV by treating mosquito-breeding areas from the ground, giving away free mosquito-eating fish, and educating residents about WNV.

County residents can fight against disease-carrying mosquitoes by removing standing water around their homes, making sure window and door screens are in good condition, and using insect repellent containing DEET when outdoors. The CDC has also recently approved the use of lemon eucalyptus oil based insect repellents to repel mosquitoes.

Already this year, surrounding counties have identified WNV in birds, mosquitoes and chickens. This year in San Diego County, there have been no human or animal cases of the disease reported. Last year, two human cases of West Nile virus were diagnosed in San Diego County. One case was determined to be acquired in the Port of Los Angeles and the origin of the other case was undetermined.

For more information about WNV, visit [www.SDFightTheBite.com](http://www.SDFightTheBite.com) or call toll-free 888-551-INFO (4636).

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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH  
1255 IMPERIAL AVE. • SAN DIEGO, CA 92101-2422